

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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DRAFTED BY AF/C:TKILLORAN:LAR

APPROVED BY AF/C:TRBUCHANAN

AF/W:DPREHFUSS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 015471

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, TN

SUBJECT: ANGOLA SITREP

REF: DAKAR 0389

FOLLOWING SITREP MAY BE TRANSMITTED ORALLY TO SENGHOR:

1. AS OF JANUARY 19, MPLA CUBAN FORCES APPEARED TO BE MASSING FOR AN OFFENSIVE SOUTHWEST OF QUIBALA; THE TARGET MAY BE THE PORT CITY OF NOVO REDONDO. UNITA AND FNLA FORCES WERE REPORTED TO HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM THEIR FORWARD HEADQUARTERS AT CELA, SOUTH OF QUIBALA AFTER SUFFERING SUBSTANTIAL LOSSES AND A LARGE NUMBER OF DESERTIONS. UNITA SOURCES CLAIM, HOWEVER, TO HAVE RETAKEN CELA.

UNITA APPEARS TO BE HOLDING ITS DEFENSIVE POSITIONS BEYOND LUSO IN EASTERN ANGOLA.

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2. MPLA AND THE CUBANS ARE CONSOLIDATING THEIR GAINS IN NORTHERN ANGOLA. FNLA IS ATTEMPTING TO HOLD ALONG A LINE AT ABOUT SEVEN DEGREES SOUTH LATITUDE. RUSSIAN IL-62 CONTINUE TO BRING TROOPS AND SUPPLIES FROM HAVANA AND A NUMBER OF CUBAN CARGO VESSELS ARE EN ROUTE TO LUANDA.

3. THE DISPOSITION OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS INDICATES THE SAG MAY HAVE MADE A DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM ANGOLA. WITH SOUTH AFRICAN SUPPORT, UNITA HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE AGAINST MPLA AND CUBAN TROOPS, BUT COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO DO WELL AGAINST THE OVERWHELMING ODDS IN FAVOR OF MPLA, WITH ITS EIGHT TO TEN THOUSAND CUBANS AND HUGE AMOUNTS OF SOVIET ARMS AND MATERIAL.

4. WE HAVE NO WORD AS YET ON THE SECRETARY'S EFFORTS IN MOSCOW, BUT HE WILL ATTEMPT TO INDUCE THE SOVIETS TO BE MORE REASONABLE REGARDING A NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT, CEASE FIRE AND WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN FORCES. SISCO

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